

can arise from a measure proposed here; when I perceive in it, a means of furthering and fastening upon us, the dominion of a political party, and perceive no other effect, let the motives of those who urge that measure, or let their opinions of its importance, be what they may, I will consider myself as called upon simply to decide into which scale I prefer casting my aid and influence; simply to say whether I will advance the political prospects of an adverse party, on every such occasion, sir, I shall steadily and firmly stand by my friends. Such, I repeat, has appeared to me to be the sole interest involved in this whole scheme, and I act accordingly,

Mr. SPENCER resumed the floor, but gave way to

Mr. HEARN who moved that the Convention adjourn.

The PRESIDENT announced to the Convention that Mr. MORRITZ, who had been acting as assistant secretary, had been called home by the illness of a member of his family, and asked the Convention to grant him leave of absence.

Mr. BOWIE moved that the leave of absence asked for be granted;

Which was agreed to.

The Convention then adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 17, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRIF-
FITH.

The roll was called, and

A quorum being present,

The journal of yesterday was read.

Mr. BISER gave notice that he would to-morrow move to reconsider the vote of the Convention, upon the following proviso submitted by Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, on the ninth inst., to the forty-third section of the report of the committee on the legislative department of the government—which proviso was in the following words:

“*Provided*, That the said funds shall be distributed so as to return the proportions respectively paid in by each county, and Baltimore city, and the residue to be distributed equitably according to the white population of this State, for purposes of education.”

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

There being no morning business before the Convention—

On motion of Mr. RIDGELY,

The Convention resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday, being the article offered by Mr. TUCK, as an additional section to the report of the committee, providing for the creation of a board of public works.

Mr. SPENCER resumed the floor, and continued his remarks as follows:

When the Convention at a late hour yesterday evening determined to adjourn, he was engaged

in the endeavour to disabuse the public sentiment as to any intimation that, in the bill which had passed the Convention, there was anything which looked to any ulterior political object. He had not intended to intimate, that when the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers,) gave his vote in this Convention, he had said he would disregard the general interests of the State, and look to party reasons. Independent of all the proper feelings which would induce the gentleman from Kent to repudiate such a sentiment, he would give that gentleman credit for too much sagacity to say that he was governed by such motives. His only object was to show that upon this question, that gentleman was standing according to his own avowal, solely on party grounds, and in this he had not been mistaken, for while that gentleman had declared that he should never lose sight of the general interests of the State; he had added that in a measure acting upon his party, and of a partisan character, he would be found in a party position. Hence it was that that gentleman had said that he should vote to keep in his friends, rather than to support a proposition, the effect of which would be to put them out.

He [Mr. S.,] had himself declared that he should vote upon principle; that he should neither vote to keep in, nor to turn out. He would now inquire whether, upon analyzing this proposition, it would appear that the gentleman from Kent was justified in his invocation of party spirit? Here were men irrespective of party, and of both parties, acting together in the advocacy of this very measure, in opposition to which party spirit was invoked. Were these men advocating a measure which would justify the opposition of the gentleman from Kent, or was it a measure calculated to disarm party? It was a measure which divided the parties equally in relation to his office, no matter which party was in the ascendant. Instead of consolidating the party which might happen to be in the ascendant, it placed an equal portion of the power in the hands of the other party. This might not wholly sever party spirit from these works; but if any measure which had been proposed could have that effect, would not this be the measure? Although the treasurer acting with two of the commissioners would be a majority of the board, and might use it as a party instrument, yet if two gentlemen of the opposite party were then to watch over the management and control of the work, would it not be the strongest possible security which the people of the State could have in the management of such a concern, and was it not far better than any other machinery which could be found to control them? He would make no attacks upon the directors of the works heretofore. He was willing to allow them the meed of all honorable praise. He should confine his objections exclusively to the Legislature of the State.

In 1832, this board of public agents was created to be solely and entirely under the direction and appointment of the Governor of the State, with the advice of the Senate. From that time up to 1840, the appointment of the agents has rested in that tribunal. In 1840, the amended Constitution